

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-36 in the application, and subsequently added Claims 37 and 38. The Applicants affirm that Claims 8-14 and 26-36 were withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected claims, and have been cancelled pending the possible filing of a divisional application.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2, 4, 5, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present Amendment, the Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 2 and amended Claim 15 to include the limitations of Claim 23. In accordance therewith, Claims 2 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Claim 38 has been amended to eliminate any ambiguity therein. The Applicants have amended the aforementioned claims to further the prosecution of the present application and make no representations regarding the merits of the cited references in view of the subject claims. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-7, 15-22, 24, 25 and 37-38 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,384,447 to Mihnea, *et al.* ("Mihnea") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,054 to Gardner, *et al.* ("Gardner"). For the reason as discussed above, the Applicants

have overcome the rejection of Claims 1 and 15, and the claims dependent thereon. In accordance therewith, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 1, 3, 37 and 38.

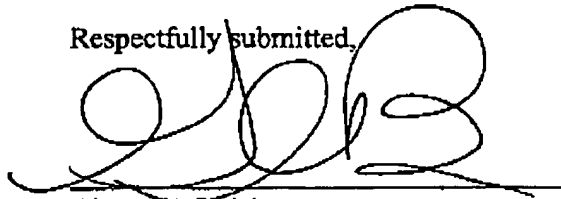
The Examiner has also rejected Claims 6, 7, 15-21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mihnea in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0227190 to Cai, *et al* ("Cai") and further in view of Gardner. For the same reason as discussed above, the Applicants have overcome the rejection of Claims 1 and 15, and the claims dependent thereon. In accordance therewith, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 15-21, 24 and 25.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-7, 15-22, 24, 25 and 37-38.

The Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 732-1001 if such would further expedite the prosecution of the present application. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Boisbrun', written over a horizontal line.

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Date

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